

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 /108 W

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R 121633Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1724

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 824

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 25805

1. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING, THE GOP OFFICIALS WITH THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FAVOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OECD "AD HOC WORKING GROUP" AND PLAN SOON TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO THAT EFFECT TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ITS APPROVAL. THEY WOULD NOT PREDICT, HOWEVER, WHEN THE COUNCIL MIGHT ACT ON THEIR RECOMMENDATION.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO FEEDBACK GENERALLY (PARA 2 REFTEL), WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR PROSPECTIVE DONOR COUNTRIES SHOULD WAIT FOR GOP INITIATIVES OR COUNT ON GOP FOR DETAILED AID PROPOSALS. THE GOP HAS ONLY A THIN RANK OF COMPETENT TECHNOCRATS, THE BEST OF WHOM
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ARE KEPT ENGAGED IN MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES EXTRANEIOUS TO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, PROSPECTIVE
DONORS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE THE GOP WITH EXPERTISE
THAT CAN TURN GOP IDEAS INTO VIABLE PROJECTS. THIS IS
ESSENTIALLY WHAT THE TWO U.S. A.I.D. TEAMS TO PORTUGAL HAVE
DONE AND ARE DOING. THE OECD TEAM THAT WAS HERE IN MID-
JANUARY WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND ALTHOUGH WE
HAVE NOT SEEN THAT TEAM'S FINDINGS, WE ASSUME THAT THEY COULD
BE USED TO HELP THE GOP FIND USES FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.
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